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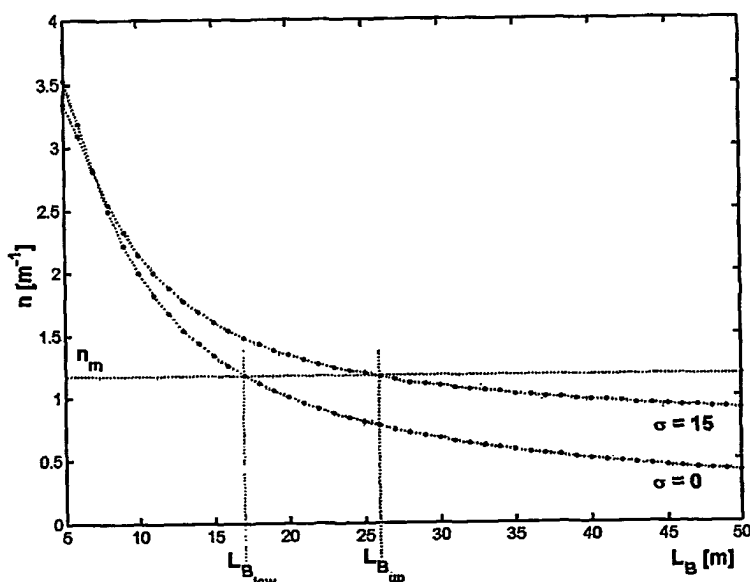
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(54) Title: METHOD FOR CHARACTERISING AN OPTICAL FIBRE LINK



(57) Abstract: The present invention is related to a method for characterising an optical link by its beat length, coupling length and polarisation mode dispersion, comprising the steps of : - sending a pulsed signal along said optical fibre link and measuring the backscattered signal (being a POTDR signal), after passing through a polariser, - deriving the length of said optical fibre, the average power difference between two successive minima of said backscattered signal and the number of maxima per unit length, - in an iterative way determining a beat length interval and an interval for the polarisation mode coupling parameter, until the length of said intervals is below a predetermined value, yielding a value for the beat length and the coupling length, - calculating the polarisation mode dispersion.